

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W

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R 200339Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0706

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

UNCLAS TOKYO 3657

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICAL LINE CORDS AND PLUGS

REF: (A) TOKYO A-879, NOVEMBER 2, 1973; (B) STATE A-1316,
FEBRUARY 15, 1974; (C) NAHA 105

1. SUMMARY: TYPE APPROVAL OF U.S.-MADE CORD SPT-3 AMERICAN WIRE GAUGE (AWG) WITH CONDUCTOR STRAND US#30 AWG DENIED BY MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) NOT FOR SAFETY REASONS BUT SOLELY BECAUSE DIAMETER OF COMPONENT WIRES LIES OUTSIDE RANGE SPECIFIED IN JAPANESE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE APPROVAL OF LINE CORDS. US CORD HAS NEVER BEEN TESTED FOR SAFETY. EMBASSY URGED MITI AMEND OR REVISE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO PERMIT IMPORTATION OF CORD IN QUESTION. MITI AGREED STUDY REQUEST AND REQUESTED COPY OF RESULTS OF TESTS CONDUCTED ON CORD IN U.S. BY UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY (UL). SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL ELECTRIC IN JAPAN AGREES SUPPLY LATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EXCELLENT AND THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICAL CORD PROBLEM PROVIDED REPAIR B.

3. EMBOFF MET WITH S. YAMASHITA, AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY BUREAU, MITI, H. OHNISHI AND A. KUMAZAWA, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE PLANNING SECTION, ELECTRIC POWER TECHNOLOGY
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DIVISION, AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MITI, AND T.

URUSHIBARA, JAPAN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE TESTING LABORATORY, TO ASCERTAIN GROUNDS FOR DENIAL TYPE APPROVAL OF U.S.-MADE CORD, SPT-3 AMERICAN WIRE GAUGE (AWG) 18 WITH CONDUCTOR STRAND, STANDARD U.S. #30 AWG. MITI OFFICIALS ADMITTED CORD NOT DENIED APPROVAL FOR SAFETY REASONS BUT SOLELY BECAUSE DIAMETER OF COMPONENT WIRES LIES WITHOUT RANGE OF 0.08 - 0.18 MM SPECIFIED FOR CORDS WITH NOMINAL SECTIONAL AREA OF 0.03 - 1.25 MM² (SPT-3 AWG 18 FALLS WITHIN LATTER RANGE, SEE REPAIR A). WHEN JAPANESE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE APPROVAL OF LINE CORDS ESTABLISHED, SPECIFICATIONS OF FOREIGN-MADE CORDS WERE NOT CONSIDERED. U.S. CORD IN QUESTION HAS NEVER REPEAT NEVER BEEN TESTED FOR SAFETY.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH K. ISHII, DIRECTOR, AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIVISION, MITI, EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR URGED THAT TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS BE AMENDED OR REVISED TO PERMIT IMPORTATION OF U.S. CORD IN QUESTION. ISHII AGREED STUDY THIS REQUEST AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY SUPPLY COPY OF RESULTS OF TESTS CONDUCTED ON CORD IN U.S. BY UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY (UL). MITI WISHES DETERMINE WHETHER UL STANDARDS CONFORM TO JAPANESE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. GENERAL ELECTRIC (GE) TECHNICAL SERVICES CO., INC., JAPANESE SUBSIDIARY OF G.E. CO., USA, AGREES SUPPLY UL TEST RESULTS REQUESTED BY MITI.

5. FOR NAHA. IN VIEW GE'S WILLINGNESS PROVIDE NEEDED INFORMATION/DOCUMENTATION, EMBASSY/MITI DISCUSSIONS OF ELECTRICAL STANDARDS AS NTB HAVE FOCUSED MAINLY ON ELECTRICAL CORD PROBLEM. EMBASSY'S ANTICIPATED NEXT STEP IS BROADER DISCUSSION OVERALL ELECTRICAL STANDARDS QUESTION, INCLUDING JIS AND OKINAWA WIRE/CABLE QUESTION MENTIONED REFTEL C. IN LIGHT OF GERMAN APPROACH REPORTED REFTEL C, EMBASSY PLANS DISCUSS FRG EFFORTS THIS AREA WITH FRG EMBASSY TOKYO. WE SUGGEST REFTEL C BE REPEATED WITH DEPARTMENT AS ADDRESSEE. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE NAHA A-41, DECEMBER 20, 1973. PLEASE POUCH COPY. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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